

The Critic's Corner.

Arrangements have been made for the undersigned to occupy a small space in each issue of the CANADIAN EVANGELIST, in criticisms upon important and difficult passages of the Word of God, and he will be pleased to receive any suggestions or queries in regard to such from any of its readers; with the understanding, however, that only such questions as relate to what is practical and useful will receive attention, and that subjects of mere speculation or idle curiosity will be discarded. E. SHEPARD, Walkerton P. O., Bruce Co.

DEAR BRO. SHEPARD.—

I. Please explain in "Critic's Corner" what is meant by Jesus coming "by water and by blood," and also by the "three which bear record in heaven—Father, Word, and Holy Spirit," and the "three which bear witness on earth—the Spirit, the water and the blood?" 1 John v. 6, 8.

II. Many contend that a church is not "scripturally organized" unless it has a plurality of elders, and sustain their position by referring to Acts xx. 17 and Titus i. 5. If this be the case many of our churches are "unscripturally organized" or else not organized at all. What is your view of the matter?

Yours for the truth, Acton, Feb. 8, 1892. W. G. O.

L. It gives me great pleasure to respond to the above. How pleasant it is to see our promising young preachers seeking to understand more perfectly the Word of God! I will do my best, on all occasions, to promote the welfare of the Church of Christ in this column, though, no doubt, sometimes my answers may not be as near perfect as I earnestly desire.

In the first place I call attention to the words of the seventh verse which are undoubtedly an interpolation, and are omitted in the revised version, as they are in all the modern Greek Texts.

I need not give all the reasons for the rejection of these words. Dr. Adam Clark says: "Of all the MSS. yet discovered which contain this epistle, amounting to one hundred and twelve, three only, two of which are of no authority, have the text." Tischendorf (a more modern authority) says: "Sinaitic, Vatican and Alexandrine MSS. omit, in heaven, the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth." The reading of these three most important and authentic manuscripts being:

"For there are three that bear record, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood, and these three agree in one," which is, substantially, the reading of the Revised Version.

"This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood." I might write several columns on this striking passage, but as I prefer to give the words of others when they seem to be wise and correct I will give the brief exposition of Dean Alford in his notes on the Greek Text which appears to be in harmony with all other candid critics. "Hudor and haima (water and blood) must point to some past facts in Christ's life: to some still present witnesses for Him, real and powerful enough to assure eternal life to believers. These requirements will be satisfied if we understand by Hudor the inaugural baptism with water which Christ underwent, and instituted for his followers; this John recognized as a marturia (witness) John i. 31, and by Haima, the final baptism of blood which Christ underwent on the cross and instituted for his followers (Mark x. 38, 39); this also John recognized as a marturia, John xix. 36, (where verse 31 refers to the same double truth). The past facts in Christ's life are an abiding testimony to us by virtue of the application to us of their cleansing and atoning power."

It was by baptism Jesus entered upon his office, which was the office

of a Divine Redeemer, and by his death he effected, with his blood, the salvation of the sinner who believes on him; and thus came by "water and blood" that the prophecies of the Holy Spirit might be fulfilled and the authenticity of his mission proved by the Spirit's testimony at the initiation and completion of the work of redemption.

"For there are three who bear witness, the Spirit, and the water and the blood; and the three agree in one."—Revised Version.

The Holy Spirit in the Word of God bears witness in every age; the institution of Christian Baptism, whenever scripturally administered, testifies in distinctive symbol; and the ordinance of the Lord's Supper, in its sacred observance, attests in holy memorial to the same vital truths concerning Christ's death, burial, and resurrection through which the believer has eternal life.

II. In the 23rd verse of the 14th of Acts we read: "And when they had ordained them elders in every church and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord on whom they had believed."

From these words it is to be inferred that the organization of a church precedes the appointment of its elders; but from this scripture and from those referred to by our brother we may safely conclude that a church is not fully "set in order" until its officers are appointed. Hence just as soon as men can be found in any church who have the proper qualifications for elders and deacons; not only from the inferences to be drawn from the Word of God, but, also, from the teachings of expediency, should these men be set apart by prayer and fasting.

E. S.

Woman's Work.

Conducted by Mrs. S. M. Brown and Miss Jessie R. Agnew, 372 Shaw Street, Toronto. Everything forwarded for this column should be sent to Mrs. S. M. Brown, Ridgeway, Ont.

O. C. W. B. M.

President, Mrs. W. B. Malcolm, 89 Church St., Toronto; Cor. Sec., Mrs. E. McClurg, Ivan, Missions Co.; Treasurer, Miss Jennie Fleming, Ellettsville.

Interruptions.

Marion Gordon sat down one afternoon to write up the skeleton of her minutes of the last Y.W.C.T.U. meeting. The meeting had been so interesting and the recording secretary had taken so active a part in it, that the skeleton was very bare indeed, and needed great care and thought; it would be dreadful to have to correct as often as Miss —, the previous secretary, had had to, and two days had passed already. Oh dear! she shivered at the thought of forgetting something important.

The first line is neatly written when tinkle, tinkle, goes the door bell, in an uncertain way as if the hand that pulled it could hardly reach high enough to get a good hold of the handle. It is little Tommy, the motherless lame child who lives a few doors up the street. A miniature avalanche from the roof has deposited a half shovelful of snow on the top step, in the midst of which stands Tommy struggling with a shovel much taller than himself. "Will you gimme five cents if I clear off your snow?" he asks, with an eager smile. "Certainly not, Tommy, there isn't a teaspoonful of snow there, trot along and clear off your own." Tommy goes away disappointed; he often makes an excuse to visit Marion, she always has such nice cake, and they never have anything nice in his home he thinks.

A few more lines are carefully polished and transcribed when the bell rings energetically. "Well," says

Marion aloud, "if that isn't the Governor-General and his retinue come to see me, it is a rag man." The rag man it is, he draws his request for rags and bones, and Marion snaps a vigorous negative in half with a slam of the door.

Tinkle, tinkle, tinkle. "Oh bother! there it goes again!" "Pins, needles or thread? buy somethings, give a poor woman a show."

"Don't need any." The next ring is the newsboy who brings Marion her favorite "Journal." "I brung yeh yor last paper 'fore Christmas an' yeh didn't gimme no Christmas box, gimme it now," holding out a dirty blue paw with a grin of anticipation. But Marion has the paper in her hand and tells him curtly he must wait till next time. The poor little chap runs down the steps tucking his hands under his insufficient coat and trying manfully to think it is the cold wind that brings the tears to his eyes. "I wouldn't a minded no Christmas box if she'd a lot a foller in to warm hisself by that rod stove in the hall, I'd a give her a toon on de chin to fer nuthin," he mutters to himself as he hurries down the street; it wouldn't do to be late for the five o'clock edition.

Six o'clock comes, and father and the boys. Father says it is extremely cold and he must write to mother not to think of returning home until the weather moderates. At the table Marion looks frolic and annoyed, to improve matters Will exclaims: "Hullo, Miss Thundercloud, what has put you off the track?"

"You are mixing your metaphors, thunderclouds don't run on tracks," replies Marion sharply.

"What is the matter my dear?" in father's deep gentle voice.

"The most exasperating thing I had planned to do so much this afternoon and that old door-bell rang twenty one times! and only the baker and milkman needed to come!" Marion poured it out with impossible inflection all in a breath.

"Is that all daughter?"

"Yes, father." Somehow Marion's grievance seemed silly after this, and when she goes to her room shutting out the light and sound of pleasant voices that float upstairs it seems more than silly,—she might have been at least polite to them all, how pinched the little old man with the wire pipe-lifters looked, and what a cough the man who mended tins had. Twenty-one chances to speak kindly and hopefully, gone in three hours. Why didn't she give that newsboy his ten cents and something to eat. Then came deeper thoughts—"The soul celebrates at every good deed a birthday."—"Count that day lost in which no kind deed is done."—"For ye have the poor always with you."—"Inasmuch as ye did it not to the least of these, ye did it not to me."—"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin."—"Oh! Lord thou art very pitiful and of tender mercy, be merciful to me and forgive me my trespasses."

ATTENTION.

We call special attention to our "PREMIUM OFFER" in another column. We make this special offer in order that the circulation of THE EVANGELIST may thereby be greatly increased. We believe the paper does good wherever it goes, and those who help to increase its circulation are helping on a good work. Will YOU not try for five new subscribers and secure the "LIFE OF CHRIST AND ST. PAUL."

EVANGELIST PUB. CO.

Children's Work.

Mrs. Jas. Leiland, Supt., Owen Sound, Ont., to whom communications for this department should be addressed.

How to Make the Mission Band a Success.

The very first essential is to get the band if you have not already done so. That being provided, I would say to those in charge: Be in earnest. How much in earnest! I will tell you; earnestness which will develop five qualities, all beginning with P, and all necessary to the attainment of the object desired, viz., success.

Prayerfulness is the first. I cannot conceive of the possibility of a really successful band upon which no prayer is bestowed, and this will have much to do with the development of the other qualifications.

Preparation is the second in order. Do not go and meet your band without having something definite in your mind (a well prepared programme is better still), for the children to hear and do. This will involve much time and thought, but is very necessary.

Punctuality is next. If your meeting is announced for a certain time, let it be to you an imperative duty to be there a few minutes earlier if possible; certainly not one-half minute later. Let the children be impressed with the idea that you are enough in earnest to be there to receive them. Meet them as they come in with pleasant greeting, and kindly enquiries, and let them feel that they are one with you in your work. Now, if you are a little late, all this is next to impossible. You will likely find a disorderly band when you do get there, and that meeting will not bring you any comfort, or work out any good result. You may have experienced this state of things when you were punctual, and in any case you will stand in great need of our fourth qualification.

Patience. I think I hear some one say: "Dear me! I need that all the time." And so you do. "Let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

Perserverance comes last on the list, but is not of less importance than the others. All who have had charge of a mission band for any length of time (and possibly some other people) will have at some time or other become conscious of a lack of interest on the children's part. For some reason the attendance falls off; the enthusiasm has all died out, and you feel as though there is nothing left for you to do, but give up your position as leader, and let some one else try, or let the work die out. Neither of these courses would be satisfactory, certainly not the last. This is a crisis when you need to rally round you every element of success, and persevere.

It is just possible that you may obtain some measure of apparent success where there is an almost entire lack of one or more of these qualifications, but if your aim is to obtain the greatest amount of the real article, then you will find them all necessary. I would urge the cultivation of these essentials upon the attention of all our mission band leaders, and if by Prayerfulness, Preparation, Punctuality, Patience and Perserverance you do not succeed, the work is not worth doing. It is well worth the trial.

"Missions and missionaries," said Alexander Campbell among the last things that he ever uttered, "are essential elements of the divine economy of the universe. The second Adam was the Prince of missionaries as well as the Prince of peace. He made the longest journey to reach his missionary field ever made by any missionary, and that over can be made while the present universe continues: he descended from the heaven of heavens to a small city

in Judea called Bethlehem. At majority this great missionary, shortly after his baptism, commenced his ministrations. To cultivate and exhibit a missionary spirit is the superlative, if not the paramount duty of every man and woman in the present kingdom of the Lord Jesus himself, the Christed missionary of Jehovah Elohim. The missionary field is, indeed, as broad and as long as the terraqueous globe. Every unconverted human being on this earth, capable of understanding and believing the gospel, is found in the missionary field. Hence the Lord himself commanded his prime missionaries to traverse the whole world, and to preach the gospel to the whole human race."

The above quotation clipped from the Washington letter in the Standard is so good and true that I give it to the readers of the Children's column. It would make a splendid mission band exercise, without much trouble, and might be used to great advantage. No reports this time. J. E. L.

Valuable New Books.

UPDAKE'S SERMONS. A series of sermons delivered in the Christian Tabernacle at Emporia, Kansas. By Evangelist J. V. Updake. Reported expressly for this book by Miss Emma Lano, stenographer. Edited by Geo. F. Hall. Handsomely bound in cloth, by mail, postpaid, \$1.50.

This is the latest series of sermons of this efficient and justly noted evangelist. They were taken down as delivered by an experienced stenographer, hence they have the peculiar life and vigor of extemporaneous discourse, and are totally unlike written sermons. The meeting at Emporia was signally successful, and it is believed that these sermons, now issued in book form, will reach a much larger audience than could be convened under any one roof, and thus exert an increased and constantly increasing influence for good, especially among the unconverted.

EVANGELISTIC SERMONS, with an Essay on the Scriptural and Catholic Creed of Baptism. By Robert T. Mathews. 8vo., cloth, \$1.50.

This volume met with an immediate and hearty welcome, and so great has been the demand that it passed to a second edition before the advance orders were filled. Brother G. S. Lamar says of the work: "You find that you are in a 'big meeting,' with its nightly-gathering crowds, its warm prayers, its inspiring songs, its sweet fellowship of love, and Brother Mathews is the preacher. And how well he preaches! Do you want a protracted meeting in your own home? Send for a copy of "Evangelistic Sermons." The following is the list of subjects:

1. The Place and Power of Prayer in Evangelism. (Text, Acts vi. 1.)
2. Hearing the Gospel. (Text, Isaiah lv. 8.)
3. Repentance. (Text, Luke xxiv.)
4. Faith and Life. (Text, Galatians ii. 20.)
5. The Good Confession. (Text, I. Timothy, vi. 12.)
6. The Baptism of the Believer. (Text, Acts viii. 12.)
7. Conversion of Young People. (Text, II. Timothy iii. 15.)
8. The Penitent Robber. (Text, Luke xxiii. 42, 48.)
9. Glorifying God in the Name Christian. (Text, I. Peter iv. 16.)
10. The Fear of Hell. (Text, Matthew x. 28.)
11. The Self respect and Salvation of Young Men. (Text, Mark x. 17, 22.)
12. The Possession and Practice of Righteousness. (Text, Matthew v. 6, I. John iii. 19.)
13. Crisis of Decision in Conversion. (Text, Acts ii. 40.)
14. The Gospel, a Mission and Culture. (Text, Matthew xxvii. 19, 20.)
15. The Scriptural and Catholic Creed of Baptism. (An Essay.)

Sent by mail, postpaid, on receipt of price.

LANDS OF THE BIBLE. By Prof. J. W. McGarvey. New and improved edition, containing colored plates, and many other important changes. Sixteen thousand copies of this standard work have already been sold. Price, cloth, \$3; sheep, \$3.50; half Turkey Morocco, \$4; by mail, propaid. EVANGELIST PUB. CO., Toronto.